

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers topics including ethical religious traditions and analysis in various relationships, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia, affirmative action, and capital punishment.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

Form Codes: SN474, SP474, SY474, SZ474

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent: Ethics in America

Level: Lower-level baccalaureate

Amount of Credit: 3 Semester Hours

Minimum Score: 400

Source: www.acenet.edu

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Contemporary Foundational Issues – 15%

- a. Relativism
- b. Subjectivism
- c. Determinism and Free Will
- d. Relationship between morality and religion

II. Ethical Traditions – 35%

- a. Greek views: Thucydides, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Stoic, Epicureanism
- b. Religious Traditions
- c. Law and Justice: Epictetus, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Kant, Royce, King, Rawls, Nozick
- d. Consequentialist Ethics: Epicurus, Smith, Bentham, Mill, Rand
- e. Feminist/Womanist Ethics: Gilligan, Nodding

III. Ethical Analysis of Real World Issues – 50%

- a. Morality, relationships, and sexuality (e.g. pornography, adultery, prostitution, LGBT)
 - b. Life and death issues (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, suicide, assisted suicide)
 - c. Economic issues (inequality, poverty, equal opportunity commodification)
 - d. Civil rights (racism, affirmative action)
 - e. Punishment (e.g. capital punishment, retributive justice)
 - f. War and peace (e.g. just war tradition)
 - g. Life centered and human centered ethics (e.g. animals, environmental issues)
 - h. Human rights
 - i. Biomedical ethics (e.g. experimentation, embryonic stem cell research, human subjects, organ donation)
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REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. *Ethics: Theory and Practice*, 11th Edition, 2011, Jacques P. Thiroux and Keith W. Krasemann, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education, ISBN 0205053149, One Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 (www.vig.prenhall.com).
 2. *Today's Moral Issues: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives*, Daniel Bonevac, 7th Edition. Publisher: McGraw-Hill.
 3. *Consider Ethics: Theory, Readings and Contemporary Issues*, Bruce Waller, 3rd Edition.
 4. *Moral Philosophy: Theories and Issues*, 4th Edition, 2007, Emmet Barcalow, Wadsworth Publishing/Thomson, ISBN: 0495007153, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, (www.wadsworth.com).
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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. Which of the following thinkers evaluates the morality of actions in terms of the amount of pleasure and pain they produce?
 - a. Aristotle
 - b. Kant
 - c. Bentham
 - d. King
2. According to which of the following philosophers is it immoral to commit suicide?
 - a. The hedonist Epicurus because suicide decrease's one's pleasure
 - b. The stoic Epictetus because suicide is contrary to nature.
 - c. Kant because persons who commit suicide treat themselves as a means only
 - d. Mill because suicide never maximizes utility.
3. For a utilitarian, the ethical evaluation of a decision to tell a lie will NOT depend on whether the
 - a. person to whom the lie is told will benefit from the lie
 - b. person telling the lie would mind someone else lying to him or her
 - c. person telling the lie will suffer if the truth is told
 - d. lie will cause suffering to third parties

Answers to sample questions:

1-C, 2-C, 3-B